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NEWS ITEMS

For several years historical scholars and patriotic societies have been trying to induce Congress to erect a fireproof building for housing the national archives. At present the archives are scattered in the different government buildings in Washington and elsewhere. They are frequently difficult of access, and are in some cases far from safely housed. It seems probable that the present session of Congress can be persuaded to act. Readers of *THE QUARTERLY* can aid in this measure by writing to their local representatives and endorsing the plan. Hon. Morris Sheppard is chairman of the Committee on Buildings and Grounds. Dr. Waldo G. Leland published in the October (1912) number of the *American Historical Review* an article discussing the importance of the proper care of our national archives. There is an article on the same subject by Rosa Pendleton Chiles in the February (1912) *American Review of Reviews*.

"The History and Geography of Texas as Told in County Names," by Judge Z. T. Fulmore, is running in the Saturday issue of the *Dallas-Galveston News* and in the Tuesday issue of the *Semi-Weekly Farm News*. The first chapter appeared on December 7. Since many counties of the state are named for individuals, this work will be particularly valuable for its additions to Texas biography.

The University of Texas has issued, as Bulletin No. 246, "A Reconnaissance Report on the Geology of the Oil and Gas Fields of Wichita and Clay Counties," by J. A. Udden, assisted by Drury McN. Phillips, xiv and 308 pages, with numerous plates and charts. Copies can be had of Dr. William B. Phillips, Director of the Bureau of Economic Geology and Technology of the University of Texas.

"Our Governors' Wives," by Mrs. J. A. Jackson, began in the *San Antonio Express* of November 3 and is appearing serially in the Sunday edition of that paper.

The following articles recently appeared in *The Texas Magazine* (Houston): "The King's Highway," by Mrs. Lipscomb Norvell

(November); "Old Fort Concho," by Paul B. Sturgis (November); "Along the San Antonio Trail," by J. H. Cosgrove (November); "The Poles of Texas," by LeRoy Hodges (December).

The Texas Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy was in session at Fort Worth from December 3 to 7.

A monument to the memory of those who wore the gray, erected by the local chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, was unveiled at Waxahachie November 2, 1912. The monument stands on the courthouse lawn. The State Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds reports the completion of the monument to Governor George T. Wood at Point Black, San Jacinto county, and of that over the grave of Elizabeth Crockett, wife of David Crockett, at Acton, Hood county. The Thirty-second Legislature authorized the erection of the last two monuments and made the necessary appropriations for the purpose.

Mrs. J. A. Jackson of Austin reports the acquisition of an interesting contemporary picture of Austin in 1839. It is described in the *Austin Statesman* for October 23, 1912.